GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

© *National Geographic Society*

A SARDINE MERCHANT OF LISBON
(see Bulletin No. 4).

Contents for Week of November 21, 1927

Vol. VI No. 18

1. Expedition to Study Alaskan Volcanoes and Earthquakes.
2. The Black Hills: Farthest West Presidential Summer Home.
3. Tipping: A Custom That Varies the World Over.
4. The Airplane on the Tagus River.
5. Where Men Wear Skirts.

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Expedition to Study Alaskan Volcanoes and Earthquakes

DR. GILBERT GROSVENOR, president of the National Geographic Society, has announced plans for sending an expedition to the Pavlof Volcano group of islands off the Alaskan Peninsula. The expedition will start next April, and its leader will be Dr. Thomas A. Jaggar, director of the U. S. Geological Survey station at the Mount Kilauea Volcanic Laboratory, in Hawaii. Dr. Jaggar is one of the foremost volcanologists in the world.

The scene of the projected study is west of Mount Katmai, Alaska, the world's largest active volcano, and the amazing "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes" discovered by an expedition of the National Geographic Society. The valley was subsequently explored by a series of The Society's expeditions under the leadership of Dr. Robert F. Griggs.

The scope of the expedition next year includes the study of volcanology, physiography, wild life and botany. Complete plans for the work, and for the personnel, which will include specialists in these fields to be sent by The Society, are being worked out.

Region Assailed by Many Earthquakes

Dr. Jaggar made a reconnaissance of the Alaskan Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands this past summer. Some of his preliminary findings, included in his outline to The Society of the field for future study and exploration, are of special interest in view of the alarming earthquake recently reported from southeastern Alaska.

Dr. Jagger said: "The Alaskan Peninsula contains clusters of active vents that may be roughly named for their leading volcanoes, from west to east, as follows, Shishaldin, Pavlof, Aniakchak, Katmai, Douglas and the Illiamna groups. The U. S. Geographical Survey and the National Geographic Society have mapped parts of the four eastern groups.

"Our 1927 camping trip in Pavlof Bay and the vicinity showed that Pavlof Volcano, with its two snowy cones and its superlatively wonderful Aghileen Pinnacle mountains, its hard cinder lowlands to the north, its facilities at the King Cove cannery, and its recorded frequent activity, hot springs and glaciers, is the place for the first of these local researches.

Need Charts for Uncle Sam's 150 Unexplored Bays

"The largest need at present, for all sciences, is for charts and topographic maps wherewith to navigate and explore the 150 bays, more or less, now all unknown, on the Pacific side west of Unimak.

"The seismograph stations at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor are only a beginning. They make base stations for studying earth motion, volcanic forecasts and eruption cycles, temperatures at Katmai, Akutan and Bogoslof, and also for extension of work to studies of gravity, magnetism, sea-level, meteorology, chemical emanations, earth currents and changes of land level and of horizontal positions of the lands."

Much of this region is little known. Dr. Jaggar, during his reconnaissance trip, discovered a volcano, probably active, which is a huge cone nearly 5,000

© National Geographic Society

CATHEDRAL SPIRES OF THE BLACK HILLS AS VIEWED FROM HARNEY PEAK

The Black Hills, where President and Mrs. Coolidge spent the summer are a wonderland which is receiving more and more attention from American vacationists. They are really mountains, not hills, with peaks rising up to the highest elevations found between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains (see Bulletin No. 2).

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Black Hills: Farthest West Presidential Summer Home

THE BLACK HILLS of South Dakota, among which President and Mrs. Coolidge spent their vacation, are really misnamed.

With one peak rising 531 feet higher than the highest point in the Appalachians and several thousand feet higher than the crests of the Ozarks, and with numerous peaks reaching altitudes in excess of 6,000 feet, the "hills" fully deserve to be called "mountains."

This highland region is a sort of island of mountains in the Great Plains. The natural attractiveness of its heavily wooded peaks and ridges and its well-watered valleys is heightened by the fact that it is adjacent to one of the most desolate areas in America—the Big Badlands of southwestern South Dakota. Through thousands of years, rains have carved the light clays, sands and sandstones of the Badlands into fluted columns and cones, jagged buttresses and a thousand other fantastic forms. One of the two railways from the East passes through the edge of this weird region about 75 or 100 miles before it reaches Rapid City, the eastern rail center of the Black Hills. Rapid City became the headquarters for the Presidential office force.

Region a Favorite Indian Hunting Ground

The Black Hills are not a part of the Rockies, but they may be looked upon as little brothers to those giant mountains. They show the family characteristics on a smaller scale. Both probably were formed at about the same time. When the great flow of melted granite welled up from the depths of the earth to raise the Rockies it found a weak spot at the site of the Black Hills and rose there too. The granite poked the surface limestones and other rocks up as a rising tent-pole pushes up the canvas. The cooking process which the surface rocks underwent at that time had much to do with making the Black Hills one of the richest mineral regions in the country.

In the ages since these mountains rose the softer stones have been weathered away, in many places exposing the hard granite, as at Harney Peak. Around the base of this peak stand great spires, remnants of the softer rock, which constitute "The Needles," one of the most striking bits of scenery in the Black Hills. On granite Mt. Rushmore a sculptor will carve American heroes in gigantic size.

The Black Hills played a peculiar part in the frontier life of America. They were unsettled and unexploited long after emigrants had established themselves in California, Texas, Colorado, Utah and other territories farther West. This was because all of western South Dakota was reserved for the Sioux Indians. The wooded uplands of the Black Hills has long been a favorite hunting ground of the Red Man. In 1874 the Secretary of War sent an expedition to the region and its mineralogists discovered gold. When this became known prospectors stole in, in spite of the best efforts of the U. S. Army, and after a year or two of unsuccessful efforts to eject them, the Federal Government found it necessary to purchase the hills from the Indians.

Land Where the Dime Novel Was Born

They were thrown open by President Grant in 1876, only 51 years ago. A turbulent frontier life developed in the mining camps that sprang up, and Dead-

feet high. He named it Mount Dutton. Previously it had been marked on charts merely as an unnamed elevation.

The expedition next spring probably will start from Bellingham, Washington, about the end of April and proceed by steamer to King Cove, whence the route will be by beach to Pavlof Bay. The field work will continue throughout the summer and probably for several succeeding years.

The route of the explorations will be along the Pacific beach to the newly found Dutton Volcano, then to the head of Pavlof Bay, inland at Jackson's Lagoon, across the flat lands, if possible, on "Left Hand Valley," into the Pinnacles amphitheater, and westward to the Bering Sea beach for explorations of valleys, volcanoes and glaciers. All this is unknown country.*

Bulletin No. 1, November 21, 1927.

*Classes wishing to study Alaskan natural wonders should consult, in their libraries, "The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes," by Robert F. Griggs, leader of the Katmai Alaskan Expeditions of the National Geographic Society. This book is especially valuable for its 262 engravings and color plates, showing the revegetation and physical phenomena following the great Katmai eruption. These processes illustrate many phases of the making of the world.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

Name .....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City..... State.....

I am a teacher in.....school.....grade

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Tipping: A Custom That Varies the World Over

PULLMAN car porters, through their organization representatives, have protested against the custom of tipping. They have applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission to help them abolish the custom on trains.

The tip is not strictly a national problem. It is an international problem that crops up in different forms everywhere in the world.

In West China a few years ago, chair coolies, after many days of hard toil, were delighted to receive a little present to be used in providing a pork feast. Throughout remote regions of the world, the gratitude that is evoked by a small present graciously given is very charming to one whose pocketbook is the subject of siege every time he makes a move in civilized zones.

Tipping One's Way in Trieste

One summer a traveler arrived at Trieste at midnight to find the city in darkness and without trams because of a strike in the electrical plant. Another strike had wiped the carriages and taxicabs off the streets. For a tip, the custodian of the baggage room opened his storage chamber; for another tip a porter carried the checked baggage from the train. The only consolation left to the midnight arrival was that money was cheap.

At 2:30 a. m. the traveler was in a bed and out a 50 lire tip, although the price of the room was only 18 lire a day. A week later this traveler was in the best hotel of Venice blessing the founders of the city because the porter at the desk allowed him to pay for a room without forcing him to pay for the privilege.

Throughout the East, tipping is so general and so moderate in the scale of donations that it seldom causes embarrassment or hard feelings. But the outgoing guest sees more servants than the incoming traveler dreams of. Speeding the parting guest is Asia's one best act. The most satisfactory plan for the traveler is to hire a bearer, tell him in advance how much he will allow for tips and then let the tactful employee gamble his desire for gold against his willingness to have his ancestry cursed unto the dawn of time.

On one Indian railway, a servant offered to have a special car added to the train for the accommodation of a single traveler for a consideration of one rupee. The traveler refused the offer indignantly and suffered much inconvenience because of changes which he would have avoided by accepting a princely gift of a private car. Later he found that as a holder of a through ticket he was entitled to the car anyway.

Where Hotel Rooms Are Scarce

In Central Europe, a hotel room is a prize to be won by painstaking effort. In Bucharest one may have to visit so many hotels that his carriage bill will make other expenses seem impossible. After such a fruitless search for quarters a traveler recently obtained a letter from a cabinet minister to the Chief of Police. After that worthy had risen from his noonday nap, he sent a police sergeant with the searcher demanding in the name of the law that he be given a room. A porter then consented to do what he had refused to do two hours earlier.

wood, the leading one, became the inspiration for the American Dime Novel which came into being about that time.

All is changed now. Mining has been placed on a corporation and machine basis and the once hectic mining camps have become quiet little cities. The Homestake Mine at Lead is one of the largest mines in the world and has taken out gold valued at more than two hundred million dollars.

A large part of the Black Hills is covered by two adjacent National Forests, Harney and Black Hills Forests. Custer State Park, in which the President passed the summer, is almost entirely surrounded by these forests. The park extends from near the southeastern edge of the Black Hills westward about 8 miles toward the town of Custer and northwestward to include Harney Peak and Sylvan Lake. The peak has an altitude of 7,240 feet and is thus the highest point between the Rockies and the Atlantic Ocean. Sylvan Lake covers 40 acres and lies at an altitude of approximately a mile and a quarter.

Like Dolomites of Northern Italy*

Game Lodge, the state-owned hotel in which the Coolidges lived, is situated a few miles from the eastern edge of the park in a valley among the lower hills. Its altitude is approximately 4,000 feet. Near-by is a highway recently built through the park from east to west and extending to Custer, 15 miles to the westward. About 10 miles westward of Game Lodge a highway branches off to Sylvan Lake leading through the remarkable "Needles.' These are not unlike small models of the world-famous Dolomites of northern Italy. All about are wooded hills and peaks while through them wind numerous streams stocked with trout.

Bulletin No. 2, November 21, 1927.

*For pictures of the Black Hills' scenic beauties and views of the Crow Indians in natural colors see "The Black Hills, Once Hunting Grounds of the Red Men," National Geographic Magazine, September, 1926.

© *National Geographic Society*

BUFFALO IN A BLACK HILLS PRESERVE

The buffalo, elk and mountain sheep once again multiply in the valleys which were favorite hunting grounds of Indian tribes. Custer State Park preserve is one of the largest of the many state parks created in the United States within the last few years.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Airplane on the Tagus River

RUTH ELDER, American aviator, has pushed the Tagus River into the world's news.

Ruth Elder and her pilot flew up the gorge of the Tagus River when they went from Lisbon,* capital of Portugal, at the mouth, to Madrid, capital of Spain, on one of the upper tributaries.

The Tagus is one of the rivers of the world that is not blessed with smiling, productive banks throughout most of its course. It has carved its way through one of the most desolate and most thinly peopled parts of Europe, the bare, arid plateau of central Spain. For scores of miles the Tagus flows through this semi-desert land of Spain like some American stream in Utah or Arizona. Not even a hamlet on its banks or an isolated railway bridge brings it at intervals in touch with the modern world. Through much of its course there is not even vegetation worthy of note along its banks, merely a few stunted evergreen oaks and some tufts of coarse grass.

Historic Toledo Protected From Enemies by Tagus

For a very considerable part of its course the Tagus flows in a narrow gorge cut far below the level of the drab upland plains, with nothing to indicate its situation until one reaches its precipitous banks. There are two exceptions, however. At Aranjuez, 30 miles southeast of Madrid, and at Talavera, 75 miles farther down stream, the constricting walls recede and the river flows for a space through fertile valleys. It is these infrequent valley-oases that furnish practically the only points vulnerable to floods along the Spanish Tagus.

Toledo is the only town of marked prominence in Spanish history along the Tagus. Here, at one time, was a city of several hundred thousand inhabitants when Toledo was the capital of Visigoth Spain. The Tagus was the huge and impassable moat for the old city, sweeping around three sides of it in a gorge 200 feet deep. On the fourth side were high walls.

Creates One of World's Finest Harbors at Its Mouth

Plunging into its deep canyon near Toledo, the Tagus flows between steep walls for most of the remainder of its passage through Spanish territory. At Alcantara, near the western border, it is spanned by a sturdy old Roman viaduct, "Trajans Bridge," that has stood in efficient simplicity for 17 centuries.

Eighteen miles after it crosses the Portuguese border, the Tagus becomes navigable for the first time, and boats ply upon its waters from that point to its mouth, 115 miles down stream. As though by way of compensation for its uselessness and solitude during most of its passage to the sea, the Tagus forms near its mouth one of the best harbors in existence, that of Lisbon. The river widens into a tidal lake about 20 miles above Lisbon and narrows down to normal river width again just before emptying into the Atlantic. Lisbon, with its excellent port facilities, is spread out along both the narrow channel to the sea and the deep tidal lake.

Bulletin No. 4, November 21, 1927.

*The November issue of the National Geographic Magazine contains numerous views of Lisbon and the Tagus and Portuguese people and scenes in color in connection with "An Altitudinal Journey Through Portugal" and "Vasco da Gama, the Pathfinder of the East."

One sometimes has pleasant memories of gratuities given. A tourist, fresh from college, was "doing" Europe cheaply some years ago. In Liverpool he sought a modest hotel and was given a very satisfactory room. In the morning he was so impressed with the way the maid looked out for his every want and with her general eagerness to please that he tipped her a shilling.

"You will pardon my saying so," she said on receiving it, "but in moderate priced hotels like this one, a threepenny bit to the maid would be quite enough."

Bulletin No. 3, November 21, 1927.

© *National Geographic Society*

THE DEVIL WEARS SKIRTS, ACCORDING TO THE TIBETAN VERSION

Not only do the devil dancers of Tibet wear feminine costumes but all the other men in the communities wear what we of the western world would consider a kimono, useful only for women (see Bulletin No. 5).

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Where Men Wear Skirts

WHAT part does fashion play in industrial geography?

A considerable part in the textile business, according to a report of the Department of Agriculture, which points to a reduction in production because less cloth is being used for dresses.

If only more men wore dresses, the textile industry might be better off. This is not such an impossible suggestion, because men have had skirts to worry about almost since the dawn of history and some men, notably the Greek and Scotch soldiers, are wearing skirts to-day.

Skirts of Skins Came First

In fact, the first garment which man evolved after he originated in the tropical latitudes and began drifting toward colder climes was probably a skirt of skins suspended from a girdle. Such a garment was worn by the ancient Babylonians and many others.

The national costume of the Javanese men is composed of the sarong and the kabaya. The sarong is a brightly colored skirt kept in place around the waist by a silk scarf which is wound around the body several times. The skirt falls down over the hips in straight lines and is quite narrow, with one simple deep fold in front. The kabaya is a sort of dressing jacket, often embroidered in elaborate colors. Though the Javanese noblemen to-day are accepting the commonplace English and American attire for ordinary occasions, one often sees at their festivals startling contrasts in attire. Native men of Mozambique and of some of the Pacific islands also wear the sarong.

A Scotchman Loves His Philibeg

Nothing is dearer to the heart of the canny Scotchman than his family plaid. Once he wrapped himself in the huge oblong piece of cloth and belted in the lower portion which extended down to his knees, forming the kilt. Later this lower part was made separately and was dignified with the name of philibeg.

The Albanian armed watchmen at the doors of foreign embassies and consulates and the Greek soldiers wear what they call the "fustenella," which is a kilted skirt of knee-length made of white cotton or linen, very full and starched.

The men of Ponapi Island in the Carolines wear skirts, usually made of grass and palm leaves appended from beaded belts, the king's being more elaborate than the commoner's. And many a black king in Africa has had as his coronation robes a short skirt and a tall hat.

Among the aborigines of Australia the women get out their needles made from a little bone from the leg of an emu, thread them with the sinews of opossums, kangaroos, or emus, and do the little "plain sewing" which makes the necessary skirts for their lords and masters.

Mankind Clings to the Kimono

But man approaches one step nearer feminism than the skirt—the kimono. Indeed, it seems that the street attire for the greater part of mankind is a garment of that kind. The Shah of Persia is all dressed up when he gets on a gorgeous robe cut exactly like the American woman's one-piece kimono, except

© *National Geographic Society*

THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF A RIVER VALLEY

Mt. Katmai, one of Alaska's great volcanoes, blew off its head and filled up nearby valleys with mud and ash. Then water began its work again, first carving a deep narrow canyon in the mud and ash. This is the first step in valley making. Later water will wear down the sides of this canyon, widening it, and after that side streams will attack the soil from behind until finally the stream has excavated a wide level valley suitable, perhaps, for agriculture (see Bulletin No. 1).

that his sleeves are long and tight and would be a nuisance to her ladyship if she had to wear them. The material he uses is elaborate and the embroidery around the edges must cost him a pretty penny.

The men in the Teheran streets wear garments of dark colors made in much the same way, the white of their undergarments making a white dickey at the neck. The vivid robes of the monks in the temples in Burma are somewhat like the ancient Roman togas. Greek Orthodox priests and Arabs of northern Africa also wear kimono-like garments, the Arab calling his a burnoose. The native costume of the Moors of Timbuctu in the Sahara gives the effect of the long robes with the loose-flowing sleeves worn during graduation exercises in American universities.

In China, Japan, Korea, Tibet and Mongolia they call the garments various names, but when it drifts to American shores it inevitably becomes some woman's kimono.*

Bulletin No. 5, November 21, 1927.

*Any teacher who wishes to follow this bulletin with research assignments will find illustrations, many in color, of the costumes mentioned with articles listed by countries in the "Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine."

© *National Geographic Society*

MORE MEN IN THE WORLD WEAR SKIRTS OR KIMONOS THAN TROUSERS

This Singapore pilgrim in an Oriental sarong and an Occidental white coat is visiting a strange piece of statuary in a Buddhist temple. At the oldest Chinese temple in Singapore the visitor, before entering, must buy crackers charged with gunpowder and explode them on the pavement in order to exorcise the devils.